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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

PICTURE STORY 269  
AUGUST, 1973

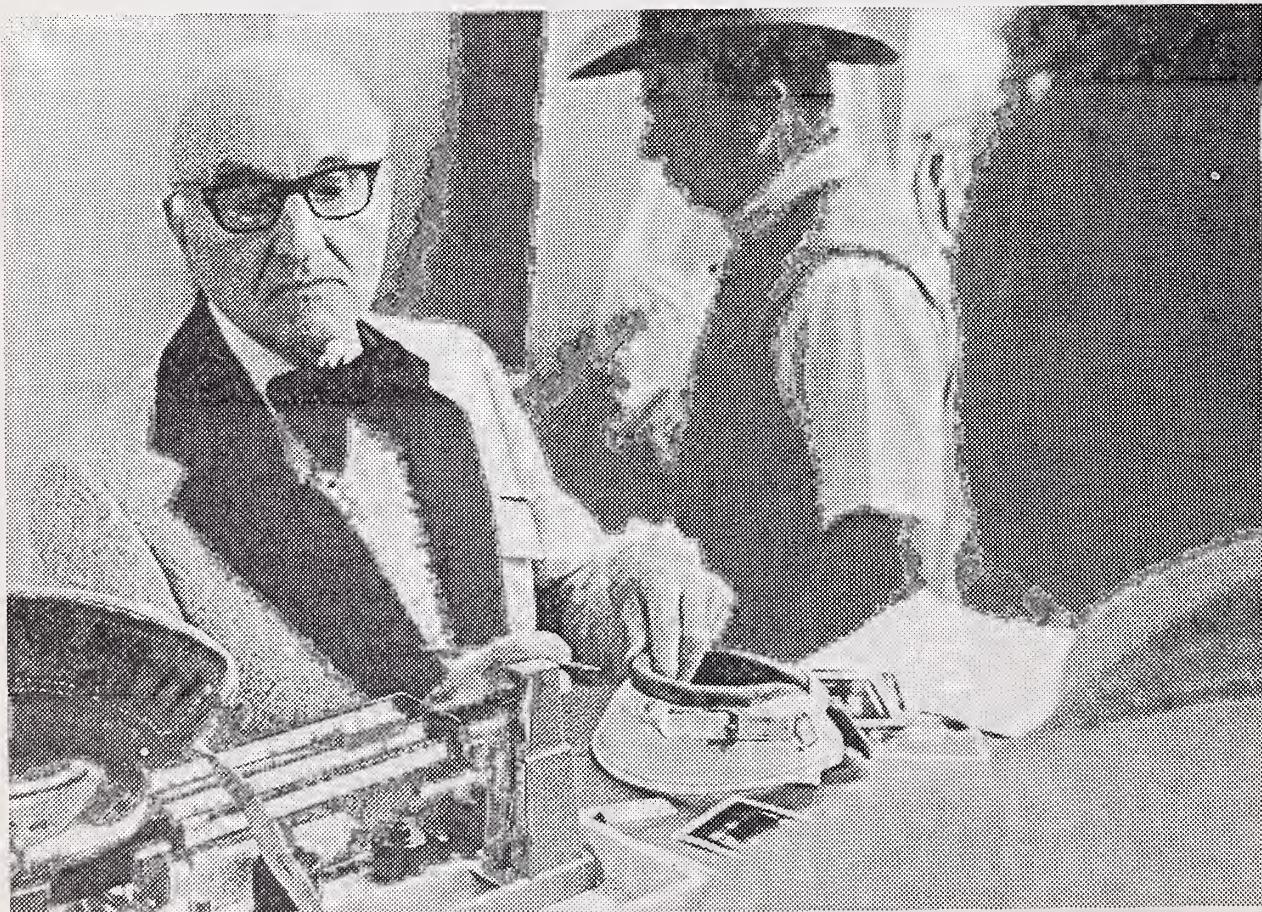


## NEW TECHNOLOGY TO END CRUELTY AT HORSE SHOWS

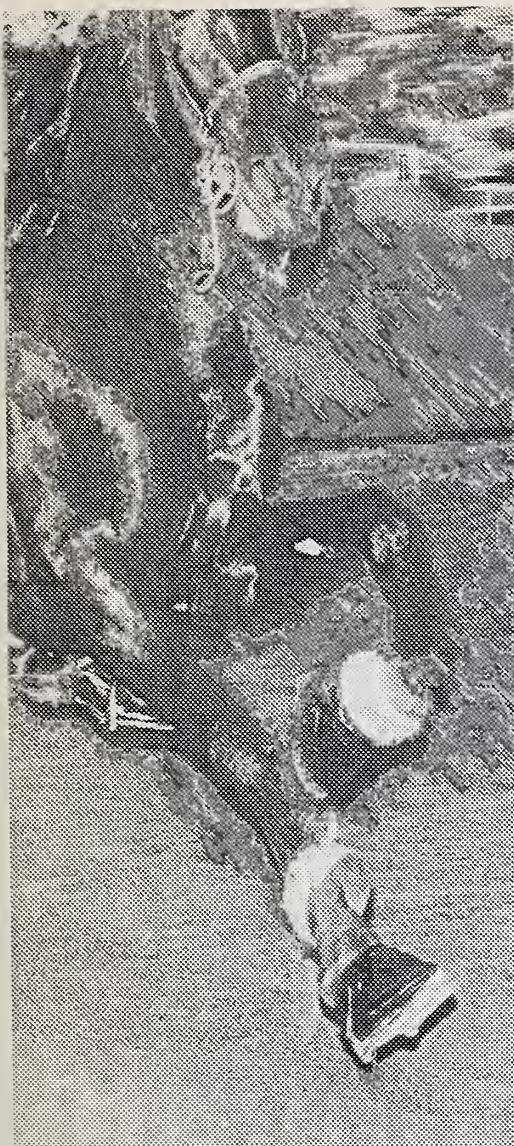
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Tennessee Walking Horse owners insert wedges between the hoof and the shoe to accentuate the gaits. Federal regulations prohibit the buildup from being slanted so as to make the horse walk painfully on its toes. USDA veterinarians check to be sure that the slant does not exceed the regulation limit. 1171X1437-7



Loose fitting bell boots commonly used by Tennessee Walking Horses are permitted only under certain restrictions. For example, the weight of each boot is limited to 16 ounces. It is the responsibility of show management to see that all federal regulations of this type are met. 373X193-26



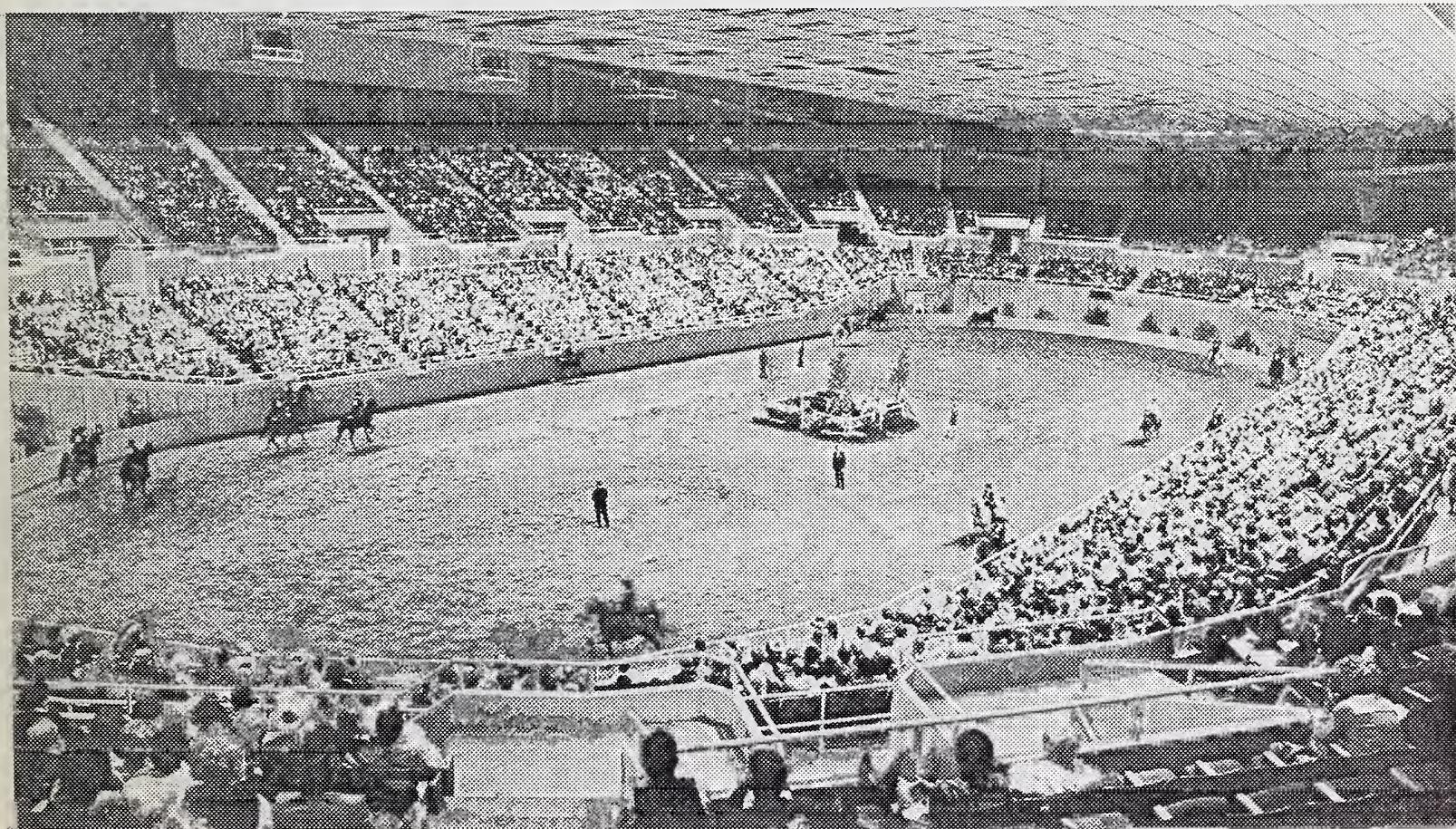
New technology is coming into the campaign to end cruelty at horse shows. It comes in the form of a thermograph—a device to scan horses for variation in body temperature to detect inflamed and sore areas.

Some unscrupulous trainers have made their horses intentionally sore to produce a higher stepping gait in the show ring. This abuse is most common in Tennessee Walking Horses, a breed that specializes in a type of gait easily enhanced by making their front legs sore with bruising chains, abrasive chemicals or other cruel methods.

Government action has resulted from passage of the Horse Protection Act, in 1970, to stop cruel practices. If competitors have entered "sored" horses, the show's sponsors are legally required to exclude them from competition.

The Act is enforced by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Inspectors do not have authority to remove "sored" horses from a show ring or to stop performances with "sored" horses. However, APHIS does prosecute horse owners, trainers and show sponsors who violate the law, and the thermograph helps provide evidence needed to bring a case to court.

Bell boots worn by Tennessee Walking Horses in competition are known as "action boots" because they slide up and down the horse's legs as it moves, hitting the top of the foot on each downstroke. This action helps accentuate the show gait. Government studies indicate that unless bell boots are kept smooth inside and weigh less than 16 ounces, they can hurt a healthy horse. 373X193-17



Tennessee Walking Horses compete in three basic gaits: the flat walk, running walk and the canter. All three gaits are distinguished by an accentuated high step of the front legs. The purpose of government inspection at these events is to insure that competition is fair and the animals are treated humanely. 373X189-24

USDA veterinarian signals show ring competitor to the examination area where a new device, the thermograph, is being used to check for soreness. This machine uses infrared sensors that can detect temperature differences up to  $1/10$ th of a degree.  
373X193-10

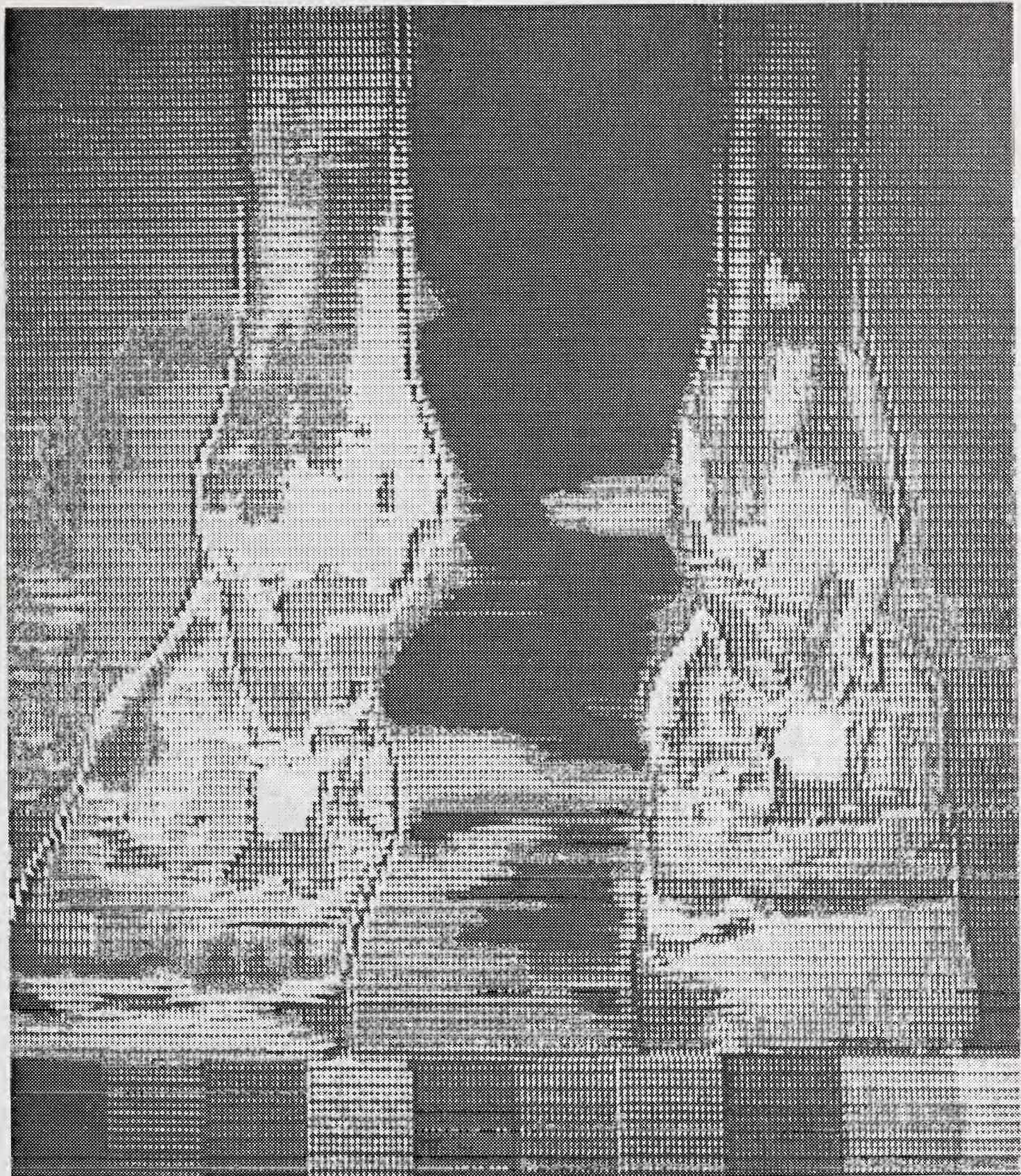


Recently, the USDA started using a sophisticated piece of equipment to examine Tennessee Walking Horses. This devise is a thermograph, which uses infrared electronic signals to record temperature readings on a screen. These images can be photographed for a permanent record. 373X189-34





Thermograph photos help inspectors decide whether a horse has been mistreated. Ultimately, these photos become part of an investigative record, which could be brought into court. 373X191-14



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Thermographs indicate temperature differences by registering the same temperatures in the same color or shade of grey. The color or tonal scale at the bottom of the picture registers (left to right), cool to hot temperatures. The two thermographs show how the temperature patterns of the same horse before a workout (Front Cover—BN40553) are changed after exercising with light chains (Back Cover—BN40552).

